

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 21-34;

Please add new claim 35-45 as follows:

1-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Presently Presented) A process for preparing a reversible gel comprising attaching a hydrophobic substituent to a starch by a reaction selected from the group consisting of etherification, esterification and amidation,

wherein the starch is a root or tuber starch, or derivative thereof, comprising at least 95 wt.% of amylopectin based on dry substance of the starch;

wherein said starch is from a plant having elimination or inhibition of genes that encode granule based starch synthase; and

wherein the reaction utilizes a hydrophobic reagent comprising a reactive group and an alkyl group having 7-24 carbon atoms, and

wherein the reactive group is a halide, halohydrin, epoxide, glycidyl or quaternary ammonium.

36. (Presently Presented) The process according to claim 35, wherein the hydrophobic reagent utilized during said etherification is selected from the group consisting of halide, halohydrin, epoxide, glycidyl, carboxylic acid and quaternary ammonium group.

37. (Presently Presented) The process according to claim 35, wherein the hydrophobic reagent utilized during esterification comprises an anhydride group.

38. (Presently Presented) The process according to claim 35, wherein the starch is a carboxymethylated starch and wherein the hydrophobic reagent utilized during said amidation comprises an amine group.

39. (Presently Presented) The process according to claim 35 further comprising attaching the hydrophobic substituent to the starch in the presence of a surfactant.

40. (Presently Presented) The process according to claim 35, wherein the derivative of the starch is obtained by hydroxyalkylation, carboxymethylation, cationization, partial degradation, oxidation, or a combination thereof.

41. (Presently Presented) A reversible gel obtained by the process of claim 35.

42. (Presently Presented) A process for increasing the associative behavior of a starch comprising

attaching a hydrophobic substituent to a starch by a reaction selected from the group consisting of etherification and esterification;

wherein the starch is a root or tuber starch, or derivative thereof, comprising at least 95 wt.% of amylopectin based on dry substance of the starch;

wherein said starch is from a plant having elimination or inhibition of genes that encode granule based starch synthase;

wherein the reaction utilizes a hydrophobic reagent comprising a reactive group and an alkyl group having 7-24 carbon atoms, and

wherein the reactive group is a halide, halohydrin, epoxide, glycidyl or quaternary ammonium.

43. (Presently Presented) The process according to claim 42, wherein the reactive group is cetyl bromide, lauryl bromide, butylene oxide, epoxidized soybean fatty alcohols, epoxidized linseed fatty alcohols, allyl glycidyl ether, propyl glycidyl ether, butyl glycidyl ether, decane glycidyl ether, lauryl glycidyl ether, lauryl phenyl glycidyl ether, myristoyl glycidyl ether, cetyl glycidyl ether, palmityl glycidyl ether, stearyl glycidyl ether, linolyl glycidyl ether, 1-bromodecane, 10-bromo-1-decanol, 1-bromododecane, or mixtures thereof.

44. (Presently Presented) The process according to claim 42, wherein the reactive group is 1-chloro-2-hydroxypropyltrialkyl ammonium salt, glycidyltrialkyl ammonium salt, 1-chloro-2-hydroxypropyldimethylauryl ammonium salt, 1-chloro-2-hydroxypropyldimethylmyristoyl ammonium salt, 1-chloro-2-hydroxypropyldimethylcetyl, 1-chloro-2-hydroxypropyl-deimethylstearyl, glycidyldimethylauryl ammonium salt, glycidyldimethylmyristoyl ammonium salt, glycidyldimethylcetyl ammonium salt, glycidyldimethylstearyl ammonium salt, dialkylaminoethyl halide, chloroethyldialkylamine hydrogen chloride salt, or mixtures thereof.

45. (Presently Presented) The process according to claim 42 further comprising attaching the hydrophobic substituent to the starch in the presence of a surfactant.